

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for storing, transporting [or] and displaying an art object, comprising:
 - a) providing a display case comprising: upper, lower, front, rear and side elements, wherein at least said lower, front, rear and side elements of the display case are composed of polystyrene foam, wherein said lower element connects to said front, rear and side elements along the bottom edge of said front, rear and side elements, wherein said front, rear and side elements connect to one another along the vertical edges of said front, rear and side elements, wherein said lower, front, rear and side elements form a container capable of storing items for display, and wherein said upper element forms a removable lid that fits within said front, rear and side elements and wherein said lid contains a top surface capable of holding displayed items; and
 - b) storing, transporting or displaying said art object on or within said display case.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for storing, transporting, or displaying one or more art objects comprising:
 - a) providing a display case system comprised of a plurality of display cases, wherein the display cases are of increasing size, and wherein smaller sized display cases are of a dimension such that they are capable of being stored inside larger sized display cases, and wherein the display cases are capable of being attached to each other to form a single display unit, and wherein each display case is comprised of upper, lower, front, rear and side elements,

wherein at least said lower, front, rear and side elements of the display case are composed of polystyrene foam,
wherein said lower element connects to said front, rear and side elements along the bottom edge of said front, rear and side elements,
where said front, rear and side elements connect to one another along the vertical edges of said front, rear and side elements,
where said lower, front, rear and side elements form a container capable of storing items for display,
wherein said upper element forms a removable lid that fits within the front, rear and side elements,
and wherein said lid contains a top surface capable of holding displayed items, and b) storing at least one smaller display case inside at least one larger sized display case, and c) transporting, storing and [or] displaying the one or more art objects on or within the display case system. [18.The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of adhesively bonding said front, rear, side and bottom elements.]

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the front, rear and side wall elements are connected to one another using rabbet joints cut at least one-half inch into the vertical edge of said front, rear and side elements and where said rabbet joints are secured using an adhesive.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the side or rear elements contains hook and loop connectors to enable a plurality of cases to be attached to each other in a plurality of configurations and further comprising the step of hook and loop attaching a plurality of cases to each other.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein step b) is displaying the one or more art objects, and step b) is accomplished by:

- c) removing at least one respectively smaller display case from at least one respectively larger display case,
- d) attaching the cases to each other to form a single display system having display cases of varying size, and
- e) displaying art objects on or within the display system.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein step b) comprises storing and transporting the art object, and wherein step b) is accomplished by storing said art object inside the display case, and transporting said display case with said stored art object.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein step b) is storing and transporting one or more art objects, and wherein step b) is accomplished by placing a first display case within a second larger sized display case, and placing said second larger sized display case containing said stored first display case within a third largest sized display case, and transporting or storing the stacked display cases.

9. (Original) A display case system, comprising:

- a) a plurality of display cases,

wherein the display cases are of increasing size, and wherein smaller sized display cases are of a dimension such that they are capable of being stored inside larger sized display cases,

and wherein the display cases are capable of being attached to each other to form a single display unit,

and wherein each display case is comprised of upper, lower, front, rear and side elements, wherein at least said lower, front, rear and side elements of the display case are composed of polystyrene foam,

wherein said lower element connects to said front, rear and side elements along the bottom edge of said front, rear and side elements,

wherein said front, rear and side elements connect to one another along the vertical edges of said front, rear and side elements,

wherein said lower, front, rear and side elements form a container capable of storing items for display,

wherein said upper element forms a removable lid that fits within the front, rear and side elements,

and wherein said lid contains a top surface capable of holding displayed items.

10. (Currently Amended) The display case system according to claim 9 wherein [the] front, rear and side elements of a display case are covered with carpet or a fire retardant fabric.

11. (Original) The display case system according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the side or rear elements contains hook and loop connectors to enable multiple display cases to be attached to each other in a plurality of configurations.

12. (Original) The display case system according to claim 10, wherein the upper, lower, front, rear and side elements are R5 polystyrene foam of a thickness of about one inch to about two inches,
and where said top surface is selected from the group comprising plastic laminate, plywood, wood paneling, and slab stock comprised of methacrylate resin.

13. (Original) The display case system according to claim 10, wherein said front, rear, side and bottom elements are adhesively bonded.

14. (Original) The display case system according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the side or rear elements contains hook and loop connectors to enable a plurality of cases to be attached to each other in a plurality of configurations and wherein a plurality of cases are hook and loop attached to each other.

15. (Original) The display case system according to claim 10, wherein said bottom element is connected to said front, rear and side wall elements using dado joints wherein said dado joints have a depth selected from the group comprising about one-half inch, about one inch or about one and one-half inches, a width of about one inch and wherein

said dado joints are cut about one inch from the bottom edges of said front, rear and side elements.

16. (Original) The display case system according to claim 10, wherein said front, rear and side elements are covered with carpet.

17. (Original) The display case system according to claim 16, wherein said carpet is fire retardant.

18. (Original) The display case system according to claim 10, wherein said front, rear and side elements are covered with fabric.

19. (Original) The display case system according to claim 18, wherein said fabric is fire retardant.

20. (Original) The display case system according to claim 10, wherein said lower, front, rear and side elements are substantially rectangular and said upper and lower elements are substantially square.